

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiners for conducting telephone interviews on June 27, 2007 and July 30, 2007.

Claims 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Baker (U.S. 6,347,344 B1). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is clearly inapplicable for the following reasons.

During the telephone interview of June 27, 2007 the Examiner contended that “the claims can be broadly interpreted that only one second data processing unit exists and thus one selector of Baker would read onto the claims.” Specifically, the Examiner stated that the limitation of claim 16 which reads “a plurality of second data processing units, each of said second data processing units ...” could be interpreted to mean that there is only one second data processing unit. The Examiner then suggested that claim 16 be amended to recite “a plurality of at least two second data processing units,” in order to indicate that more than one second data processing unit is claimed. Further, the Examiner stated that by adding the phrase “at least two” it would appear that claim 16 would overcome the references of record.

In view of the Examiner’s position discussed above, independent claim 16 has been amended to include the phrase “at least two.” Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 16 and the claims that depend therefrom are patentable over the Baker reference, since Baker only discloses one selector, wherein the plurality of at least two second data processing units requires that there be at least two selectors.

However, it is the Applicants position that by adding the above-mentioned limitation to claim 16, amended claim 16 is not further limited in scope. Specifically, it is submitted that the plurality of second data processing units, as recited in the prior version of claim 16, necessarily requires that there is more than one second data processing unit, since (1) the term plural/plurality is defined as “relating to, consisting of, or containing more than one or more” (see attachment), and (2) the use of the letter “s” at the end of the word “unit” in the phrase “a plurality of second data processing units” requires multiple units.

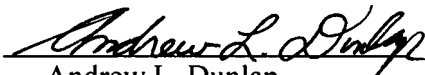
· Accordingly, since the incorporation of the phrase “at least two” into claim 16 does not further limit the scope of claim 16 it is submitted that no new issues of patentability are raised and that the Examiner must enter and consider the amendment.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that, as acknowledged by the Examiner in the Interview Summary of June 27, 2007, the Baker reference does not disclose or suggest more than one second data processing unit having a selector, and amended claim 16, requires that there are at least two second data processing units having a selector. Accordingly, amended claim 16 and the claims that depend therefrom are not anticipated by the Baker reference and are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification thereof is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Takashi HASHIMOTO et al.

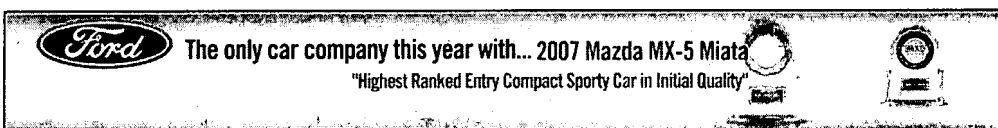
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Main Entry: **plu·ral** ◀

Pronunciation: 'plur-&l

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: Middle English, from Anglo-French & Latin; Anglo-French *plurel*, from Latin *pluralis*, from *plur-*, *plus* more -- more at **PLUS**

1 : of, relating to, or constituting a class of grammatical forms usually used to denote more than one or in some languages more than two

2 : relating to, consisting of, or containing more than one or more than one kind or class <a *plural* society>

- **plural** *noun*

- **plu·ral·ly** ◀ /-&-IE/ *adverb*

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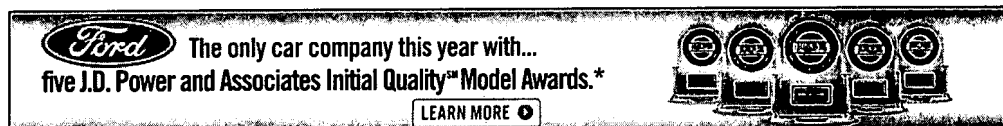


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plurality

One entry found for **plurality**.

Main Entry: **plu·ral·i·ty**

Pronunciation: plu-'ra-l&-tE

Function: *noun*

Inflected Form(s): *plural -ties*

1 a : the state of being **plural** **b** : the state of being numerous **c** : a large number or quantity

2 : **PLURALISM** **1**; *also* : a benefice held by **pluralism**

3 a : a number greater than another **b** : an excess of votes over those cast for an opposing candidate **c** : a number of votes cast for a candidate in a contest of more than two candidates that is greater than the number cast for any other candidate but not more than half the total votes cast

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